

Unit 2: Lesson 4 – Vaccine History and Research

Activity 2: On the Shoulders of Giants

When asked about his accomplishments, English scientist Sir Isaac Newton famously said, “If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.” By this, he meant that he could not have accomplished what he did without the work of others before him. The same is true in medical research, including the history of vaccine development. In this activity you investigate how work by early scientists laid the foundation for later discoveries.

After completing your research, answer the questions below and use the answers to create a brief presentation to share with the class.

1. What was the main discovery by this researcher (or research team)?
2. When and where was the discovery made?
3. How did this discovery help foster the development of vaccines?
4. List and describe one or two additional facts that you learned from your research.